

Dear Mom and Dad,

I picked up the mail a few minutes ago and found another letter from Mom when I haven't even answered the previous one and also have one from Dad to respond to! Don't feel sorry for me; writing a letter to one's parents is a perfectly satisfactory excuse for interrupting work on a term paper. My term paper for communications class is due 16 April in lieu of a final exam. I'm writing about fiber optic communications, but haven't yet determined exactly what I want to say. We also must give a 10 minute talk on our papers but that won't be any problem once it is written. The midterm exam wasn't too difficult so I expect to get an "A" in the class - a "B" is nearly failing in graduate school. The program I'm in now doesn't require any qualifying exam or thesis, but does involve some extra classes. It is a post-master's Applied Scientist degree in Artificial Intelligence and Simulation. If I can manage a two-class per semester schedule starting in the Fall, I will finish in two years. I enjoy the classes and might as well take them since the company foots the bill.

Vickie recently completed a community college course in structured programming. She had to write a few simple Cobol programs and needed to use the college terminals since their computer is not equipped with a dial-up capability. Naturally the terminals are always busy and they break down a lot. Her next class, in Cobol Programming, starts next week so I have ordered Cobol for our computer. It will be much easier for her to work at home. In the Fall Vickie may start a one year Computer course at GWU which would give her a certificate and excellent qualifications for other jobs considering her experience with large data base management.

It is a rainy Saturday, but we can't complain because we have had very little rain all winter. We had planned to go on a drive but cancelled out until next week. I went over to Landmark for a haircut and then to Giant. I baked Lasagna earlier and just took brownies out of the oven. Vickie is straightening her closet and ironing clothes. It is very dark outside. I appreciate the Spring, however, now it is starting to get light when I go out running at 5:15 AM. Last night we went to the Kennedy Center to see Shakespeare's "Henry IV" but we were a little disappointed in the production which seeming a little slow and lifeless. The Folger Theatre has the best Shakespeare and we are going there to see "Hamlet" in a few weeks. Next week is the 10-mile Cherry Blossom around Haines Point. Last year we all went to see Clara Barton's house and then drove to the Marriott Hotel where Vickie and I picked up our race numbers.

I am very busy at work. We have enough work (i.e., money) for four, but there are only three of us at the moment. The projects vary quite a bit and most are interesting so I am never bored. I picked up a computer game called MIND PROBE at work. It

asks you to describe a person by giving yes or no answers to a list of attributes. Then it writes an "analysis". We have played a similar game at Mary's with Sue and Paul. Anyway, I have enclosed profiles resulting from my description of Vickie and Vickie's description of me. Don't be dismayed, it is a party game and deliberately puts down everyone. Mary will be our next subject.

We certainly enjoy your letters and definitely plan to visit some time this year when I have a business trip to the West Coast.

Love,

Jim & Vickie